

# Tukwila Police Department

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## Biography of Michael Villa, Chief of Police

Chief Mike Villa entered law enforcement in 1990 as a police officer with the Tukwila Police Department. In 1996, he was selected as one of two officers to implement the Department's first community oriented policing bicycle team. He also worked as a narcotics detective, and in 1998 was promoted to Sergeant. He supervised patrol staff and then the Support Services/Crime Prevention Unit before being appointed as a Commander in 2001. During his six years as a Commander, he had opportunities to oversee and lead the Investigative Services Division, Training, the Valley Regional SWAT team, and the Patrol Division. He was appointed as an Assistant Chief of Police in 2007, where he led both the Patrol Division and the Investigations Division, respectively. On June 6, 2011 he was sworn in as the Tukwila Chief of Police.

During his career as a police officer he served on the Valley Regional SWAT team as an operator, team leader, and commander for thirteen years. He has instructed SWAT command and supervision for the National Tactical Officers Association. He represents the region on less lethal issues on the International Law Enforcement Forum, and has worked with the National Institute of Justice on its Tactical Technical Working Group. He is an active member of the King County Police Chiefs Association and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA., and holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Central Washington University.

Chief Villa has a long history of community policing and problem solving that stems from a strong desire to curb crime and create safer neighborhoods. In the 1990's he was instrumental in starting the citizen foot patrol program, opening a neighborhood resource center, and developing long-lasting partnerships with citizens and business owners. In more recent years, he authored the 2010-2014 COPS grant. The department was awarded three positions funded by the COPS office. The positions formed a new team of uniformed officers responsible for furthering partnerships and solving problems in high crime areas. He also brought together the school district and city in 2010 to file jointly for a Secure our Schools grant for \$74,000. This grant increased safety in the middle school with upgraded video cameras and an electronic key card access system. He is currently on a path to reinstall two community oriented policing bicycle officers and reopen a neighborhood resource center on Tukwila International Boulevard in the summer of 2012.

Chief Villa grew up in Tukwila. Prior to his law enforcement career he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. In 1991, he was deployed to Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm. He and his wife of 25 years, Peggy, have four children. His son Michael is a Marine Corps and Afghanistan veteran now safely home and working in the security sector. His other son Daniel, recently married, is an engineer with Boeing. He actively enjoys spending time with his daughters, Jessica and Amanda, who still reside at home.

Chief Villa is honored to be the Police Chief of one of the best departments in Washington State. He is committed to providing excellent, professional service and making Tukwila a better place to live, work, and play. In 2012 Chief Villa established the department's shared vision – "a world-class police department delivering professional law enforcement service."

